

Miscellaneous Editorial Paragraphs

The highest end of life is to live nobly and usefully.

Life is precious but it is too dearly bought when the price we pay for it is moral cowardice.

The best and noblest employment of every man's powers is the search after the truth as it is in Jesus.

Christ may and often does take his sheep over rough and dangerous places but he never loses any of them.

Homely people waste no love on mirrors; and perhaps for a parallel reason some people dislike the Bible. It shows them their defects and deformities and earns their dislike. Wisdom would say, look the oftener, study your defects and endeavor to remove them; but folly criticises the faithful glass as if it were responsible for the hideous face before it.

Andrew Carnegie warns young men who wish to achieve success in life that they must not acquire the drinking habit. The two he says are incompatible. While this indisputable fact as a reforming agent is subject to the drawback that those most in need of reformation are interested in money making only as a means to satisfy their appetite for strong drink, and the less of money making success they have the better for them, yet the fact must continue more and more a powerful restraining agent at least. All lovers of temperance will be glad to learn of this deliverance of so distinguished a man as Andrew Carnegie on the subject of temperance. As a still farther encouragement comes the intelligence that Emperor William of Germany recently wrote that all efforts having for their object the diminution of the use of alcohol and the education of the public in the moral and economic evils attendant on its use will have his entire approval. That makes a pretty strong temperance team, Andrew Carnegie and the German Emperor.

It has been suggested that people troubled with insomnia should regularly attend public worship. There seems to be something specially soothing in the Sabbath service that lulls to sleep even the most sleepless. How shall people keep awake in church is a question which if it has not troubled Sabbath audiences has at least troubled and still troubles many a hard working pastor. A deacon in a certain congregation seems to have found a remedy for this almost universal ailment. A friend said to him: I see the old miser never goes to sleep any more. How did you arrange it? Easy, said the deacon. I told him that once while asleep he dropped a quarter on the plate. You couldn't get him to go to sleep now for the world. That was a very effectual remedy, and no doubt would cure many another who is in the habit of sleeping during the time of church service, and yet is not willing to pay 25 cents for the privilege of an hour's nap.

Rev. Samuel Krell, pastor of the Methodist church at Lacona, Iowa, who served two years in the Philippines as a private in the Fifty-first Iowa Volunteers, committed suicide a few weeks ago, because he was despondent over his inability to secure a larger attendance at his church meetings. It is rather remarkable how men of sublime courage sometimes yield and go down under the lesser trials of life. Here is a

man who feared neither cannon nor sword, privation nor starvation, who voluntarily faced all the hardships and the dangers of a cruel war in the far away islands, yet yields to the discouragements and resultant despondency of a small congregation. If small attendance at church service would similarly affect all preachers of the gospel there would be a great thinning out of ministers. Come to think of it, however, is it any wonder that it should weigh heavily on the mind and heart of the faithful servant of God because so few, very few, are willing to hear his message. He has a message from God; it is transcendently the most important it is possible to deliver to man; it concerns things eternal; it appeals to all that is highest and noblest and best in man, and yet thousands utterly disregard it, and remain indifferent in their attitude toward the vital truths which this message brings to them. It is a great mystery and God alone knows the reason why.

A young lady in ill health went to Florida for the winter, hoping to be restored. She wrote home in glowing terms of the climate and the abundance of fruit there. She spoke in particular of the table where she boarded. It was crowded with the best of everything. But there was one sad note running thru all her letters, "I have no appetite. If only I had an appetite, I know that I should soon be well." Then soon word came that she was dead. She died of starvation in the midst of plenty—died because she had no appetite. This is the history of thousands of souls; they starve in the very midst of the great abundance which the Father has provided for them. Starve, not for want of spiritual food, but for want of appetite. They are ill; their souls are sick; they need a physician, not a physician, but the physician, even Jesus, from whom they should forthwith take a course of treatment that there may be restored to them an appetite for the things spiritual which God has provided for his children.

Two young ladies of Berlin, Germany, found their eyesight failing, and their parents sent them to a doctor, where they had to undergo a cure lasting for some weeks. Questioned by their parents as to what they had been doing to bring their eyes to such a condition the girls confessed that they had washed their faces in water mixed with frogs' eggs in order to secure a delicate complexion. Folly, did you say? Yes, worse than folly that any one should value a delicate complexion more than eyesight. It is the old story over of sacrificing the higher and the nobler and the better things in life for the transitory things which endure but for a moment. It is true in the physical, the intellectual, the moral, and the spiritual. What sane person would think of sacrificing two good eyes for the sake of an improved complexion? Yet every day thousands of people are doing things much more foolish. They sacrifice eternal life, a gift worth more than all the gold in the universe, for the follies and the pleasures and the temporal things of this present world. For complexion's sake, for beauty's sake, for appearance's sake, that is to say for fashion's sake, they will let go of the great and lasting things of life, and in the end find themselves spiritually blind, having sacrificed the noblest and the best and the richest elements in life, even life eternal. What folly! What consummate folly!